

STANDPOINT

about doctoral dissertation **TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG
BULGARIAN STEM STUDENTS: THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITY**

(author: prof. d-r Desislava Ivanova Yordanova)

from

prof. doc. habil. Tsvetan Davidkov – the standpoint is prepared based on the Order RD-38-462 /
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The proposed text is a doctoral dissertation for obtaining the scientific degree “doctor of sciences“. The author is an academic at the Department of Business Administration of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Sofia University. She has valuable publications on the topic of the dissertation. She is very familiar with the scientific research on the subject field of the dissertation. Her research is novel for the Bulgarian context.

For years I’ve been following the progress made on this work. This is a project, which the author has been planning and realizing persistently during the past 7 years. It represents an extension and development of the significant research achievements and experience that Prof. d-r Desislava Yordanova has acquired.

My evaluation of the dissertation is positive – this is a well defended and complete research, which is based on a systematic knowledge about the process of technological entrepreneurship; with emphasis on the role of universities in stimulating and developing of this type of entrepreneurship among the Bulgarian students of STEM specialties.

Useful for the conceptual understanding of the studied scientific problems are all the models on which the methodological system and the apparatus of the study are being built (see figure №№ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 table 3 – dissertation work). The conceptual frame of university entrepreneurship (dissertation, page 107; figure 16) and the conceptual model of university entrepreneurship (dissertation work, page 109; figure 17) are undoubtedly useful and

interesting. All basic theoretical schemes create a solid conceptual base of the research. It should be acknowledged that distinguishing attitudes, goal intentions, implementation intentions, nascent technology entrepreneurship and active technology entrepreneurship is well substantiated and valuable. In relation to each of these phases, research hypotheses are substantiated and verified which grants support to the research thesis of the dissertation: "... factors related to the university influence attitudes, intentions and behaviour for development of technology entrepreneurship among Bulgarian STEM students" (avtoreferat, p. 12).

Several groups of hypotheses are verified in the course of the research. The first ten are related to the connection between a group of factors (entrepreneurial attitudes of university professors; entrepreneurship education; support to development of ideas; achievements in R&D; university-business relations) – on one hand – and the possibility of positive attitude about high feasibility + motivation (desirability) of the students for a new technology business. The result is valuable and is a good reference for defining university strategies, policies, and measures for stimulating technology entrepreneurship among students from STEM specialties. The next hypotheses specify the first ten according to the phase of development of the entrepreneurship process. The results of the research are presented in a well-structured and understandable manner. They are convincing.

The claim of scientific contributions can be defended. The contributions are not only theoretical and methodological and methodical, but also connected with the generating of valuable empirical data, based on which well justified results and new knowledge are obtained. They are applicable in the operation of universities as a base for strategies – policies – measures for fostering technology entrepreneurship; they are grounds for justification of future research with a high value added.

I positively evaluate the publication activity and the quality of the publications on the topic of the dissertation of prof. d-r Desislava Yordanova. The publications include: a) a chapter of collective monography; b) three articles, indexed in Scopus and/or WoS – prof. Desislava Yordanova is a single author of one of them, while the other two are co-authored; c) in the list there are three articles, indexed in other data bases- №№ 5, 6, 7; d) another six texts have acquired publicity as papers, published in conference proceedings (№№ 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13); e) text № 14 is published in the journal of the network ERENET.

Although the evaluation of the dissertation and other materials does not suppose independent examination of other aspects of the candidate's activities, I would like to emphasize the following: prof. d-r D. Yordanova is intensively and completely in researching entrepreneurship and developing education; with the creation of suitable infrastructure for R&D support in this field and for support of innovative start-ups. She teaches, investigates, initiates new university programs and courses; participates in national and international projects and research groups. Her expertise and devotion deserve high esteem and respect.

Based on the above and considering the quality of the presented dissertation and other materials (avtoreferats in Bulgarian and English, publications, etc.), I will convincingly support a decision for granting to prof. d-r Desislava Yordanova the scientific degree doctor of sciences in professional field 3.7. Administration and management.

Good luck!

Sofia, 11-09-2022

Signature:

(prof. doc. habil. Tsvetan Davidkov)